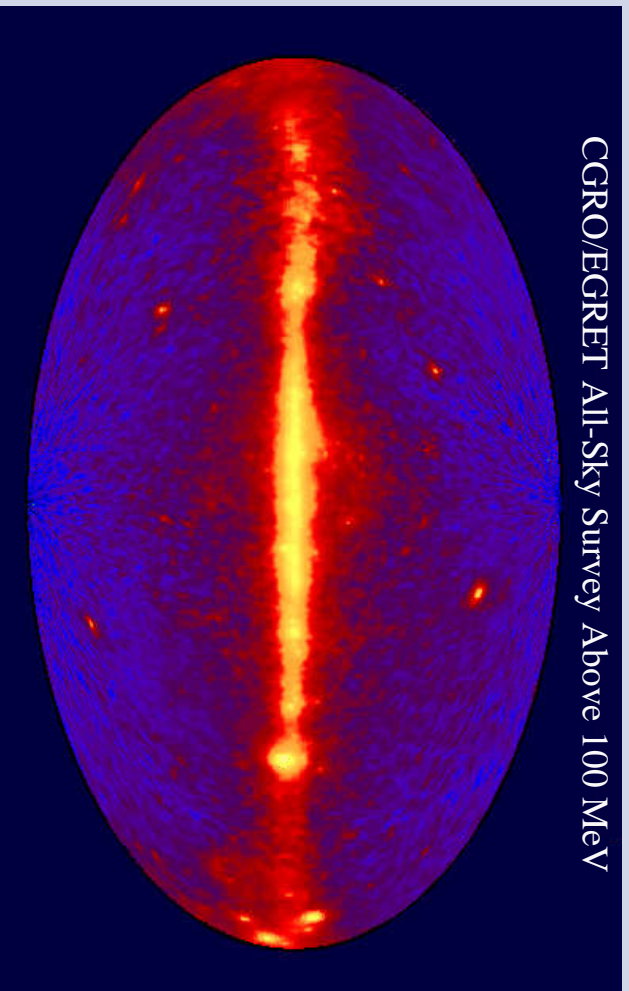




## GAMMA RAYS PROVIDE UNIQUE ASTROPHYSICAL INFORMATION

### *Exploring the highest energy phenomena occurring in Nature*



- identify and probe sites of extreme particle acceleration (regions of strong magnetic fields and relativistic gravity)
- high-energy interactions of elementary particles (electrons, positrons, protons, pions, ...?) are central to understanding the physics of sources
- potential exotic sources of cosmic gamma rays: primordial black holes, supersymmetric particle annihilation, interfaces between large regions of matter and antimatter, ...
- many cosmic sources remain unidentified
- gamma-ray bursts
- pulsars
- massive black holes
- exotic sources